



THE HON. JOEL FITZGIBBON MP Minister for Defence

Saturday, 2 May 2009

PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S LAND FORCES

Today the Minister for Defence, the Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon MP, announced that the Government has taken the important step of further enhancing the protection of our Land Forces through the upgrade of the Army's Ground Based Air Defence systems incorporating a Counter Rocket, Artillery and Mortar capability.

"My highest priority is the safety and protection of Australian Defence Force members serving overseas on operations. An integrated Ground Based Air Defence system will keep Australian Defence Forces safer while deployed," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

The Government will replace or upgrade the Australian Army's ground-based air defence system with more advanced systems that will also include a new counter rocket and mortar capability to protect land forces from artillery, rockets and mortar fire.

An enhanced Ground Based Air Defence capability will consist of a networked and integrated air defence command and control battle management system; a number of integrated sensors to identify and track aerial platforms and predict threat munition impact points; and the capability to engage threats in flight.

This will allow the Army to defeat the threat in flight or at the very least provide earlier warning to personnel enabling them to seek protection.

The enhanced Ground Based Air Defence system will provide a networked system that can detect, warn and cue a protective response measure.

Ground Based Air Defence enhancements are in addition to those being made in the areas of protected mobility, command and communications and increased fire power that have already been announced.

The 2009 Defence White Paper represents the most comprehensive statement on Defence ever produced. It affirms the Government's commitment to the defence of Australia, the protection of our sovereign interests and the security and stability of our region

A Defence Force for the 21st Century

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